

Giving good Feedback

Good feedback is focused on helping you to master concepts and succeed in future assessments. Here are some suggestions for things you might try to give yourself useful feedback.

1. **Focus on the error.** Identify the specific place where you made an error in solving the problem, and expose what reasoning led to your mistake. This is often the best way to ensure that you don't make that mistake again.
2. **Don't simply copy the solution.** Try to take one or two ideas from the solution and use them to see if you can solve the problem on your own with these new hints.
3. **Look for pro tips.** What are the small things that have a big impact on helping you to develop and demonstrate more understanding?
4. **Push beyond right answers.** Even when you get a question right, you should see how you can extend your reasoning. Did you start from a general principle? Was your reasoning clear? How can you push your understanding further?
5. **Look for clarity.** Long, rambling answers often hide misunderstanding. Look at your response and pull out the essential details. How could you answer the question with fewer words and greater insight?
6. **Classify your understanding:** It is a very helpful exercise to go through each question and rate your understanding of each problem on the following scale:
 - **Unconscious Incompetence (UI):** You did not even know that you did not understand this idea. You don't really know what concept this question is testing.
 - **Conscious Incompetence (CI):** You understood what the question was asking, and probably what concept it was testing, but you did not know how to do/solve it. This represents a major leap from UI.
 - **Conscious Competence (CC):** You understood what the question was asking, and how to do/solve the problem, but it required significant mental effort, focus, and time. You could not focus on finer details or extending your reasoning.
 - **Unconscious Competence (UC):** You understand the concept/skill well enough to be second nature. It requires far less mental effort than CC, and you can devote more effort to extending your reasoning, and exploring finer details.
7. **Give yourself a score for each concept:** While this is probably the least important part of feedback, it is helpful for you to begin to calibrate your understanding of how well you mastered an idea. Use this scale:
 - 0- you're way off, probably demonstrating Unconscious Incompetence (UI).
 - 1- you've got some good stuff going on, but there are one or more significant mistakes keeping you from demonstrating full understanding (CI).
 - 2- Mastery. You've solved the problem completely. Depending of the level of effort this took, and detail you were able to see, this is either CC or UC.